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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant	:	Ajay Bhatia et al.
Application No.	:	10/007,693
Filed	:	December 5, 2001
For	:	COMPOUNDS AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSIS OF CHLAMYDIAL INFECTION
Examiner	:	Padmavathi Baskar
Art Unit	:	1645
Docket No.	:	210121.515C2
Date	:	February 19, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 21, 2002, please extend the period of time for response two months, to expire on February 21, 2003. Enclosed are a Petition for an Extension of Time and the requisite fee.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 21, 2002, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, at lines 30-31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a1 SEQ ID NO:139 sets forth the amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT622.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, at lines 1-2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2 SEQ ID NO:140 sets forth the amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT875.

Please replace the paragraph on page 101, lines 15-26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Two full-length recombinant proteins, CT622 and CT875, were expressed in E. coli. Both of these genes were identified using CtLGVII expression screening, but the serovar E homologues were expressed. The primers used to amplify these genes were based on serovar D sequences. The genes were amplified using serovar E genomic DNA as the template. Once amplified, the fragments were cloned in pET-17b with a N-terminal 6X-His Tag. After transforming the recombinant plasmid in XL-I blue cells, the DNA was prepared and the clones fully sequenced. The DNA was then transformed into the expression host BL21-pLysS cells (Novagen) for production of the recombinant proteins. The proteins were induced with IPTG and purified on Ni-NTA agarose using standard methods. The DNA sequences for CTE622 and CTE875 are disclosed in SEQ ID NO:28 and 27 respectively, and their amino acid sequences are disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 139 and 140, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 101-102 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Five additional Chlamydia trachomatis genes were cloned. The Chlamydia trachomatis specific protein CT694, the protein CT695, and the L1 ribosomal protein, the DNA sequences of which are disclosed in SEQ ID NO:119, 120 and 121 respectively. The protein sequences of these 6X-histidine recombinant proteins are disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 122 (CT694), 123 (CT695), and 124 (L1 ribosomal protein). The genes CT622 and CT875, from serovar E were also cloned using pET17b as 6X-His fusion proteins. These recombinant proteins were expressed and purified and their amino acid sequences disclosed in SEQ ID NO:139 and 140, respectively.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

19. (New) A method for stimulating and/or expanding T cells specific for a Chlamydia protein, comprising contacting T cells with a composition comprising at least an immunogenic portion of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 139;

(b) a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139; and

(c) a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

20. (New) A composition comprising a first component selected from the group consisting of physiologically acceptable carriers and immunostimulants, and a second component consisting of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 139;

(b) a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139; and

(c) a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity with the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139.

Please cancel claims 10 and 12.

REMARKS

Applicants hereby elect Group V, Claims 10-12, drawn to a method for stimulating and/or expanding T-cells and T-cell populations, without traverse. Applicants also elect SEQ ID NO: 139, amino acid sequence of serovar E protein CT622. Claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 11, 19 and 20 are now in the case. Claims 1-9, 13-18 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants respectfully request that new claims 19 and 20 be added. Claims 19 and 20 replace claims 10 and 12 and reflect the selection of SEQ ID NO:139. It is Applicants' belief that newly added claims 19 and 20 correspond to Group V as defined by the Office. Amendments to the specification were also